

DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ

June 2009

DISTRICT II

KAHALU'U * KO'OLAULOA * NORTH SHORE * WAHIAWA * MILILANI MAUKA



COUNCIL CALENDAR 2009

Committee Meetings:

Wednesday, June 10

Next full Council meeting

Tuesday, July 30

Zoning - 9 am

Publ. Infrastructure - 1 pm

Wednesday, August 1

Budget - 9 am

Executive Matters and Legal Affairs - 1 pm

Thursday, August 2

Transportation and Planning - 9 am

Public Safety and Services - 1 pm

- Times are subject to change

City proposes tax increases

In order to balance the City's budget, the administration has proposed tax and fee increases. This is an attempt to offset the \$50 million shortfall in the proposed \$1.8 billion city operating budget.

The increases include motor vehicle weight tax, highway beautification and abandoned vehicles fee, bus fare, Zoo entry fee, and public parking rates. The administration has also proposed an increase in real property tax from \$3.29 to \$3.59 per \$1000 valuation.

Honolulu City Council Bill 20 relates to increasing the motor vehicle weight tax from 3 cents to 4 cents per pound on January 1, 2010 and raises it again to 5 cents per pound on January 1, 2011. For a 3000-lb automobile, the owner would pay \$90 this year, \$120 in 2010 and \$150 in 2011.

Bill 21 increases the highway beautification and abandoned vehicles fee. Currently, the fee is \$5 per vehicle, but will be raised to \$6 per vehicle on September 1, 2009. On July 1, 2010 the fee will be raised to \$7. This fee is used for various beautification and projects for parts of highways under the city's jurisdiction. Budget and Fiscal Services director Rix Mauer testified that the fee had not been increased in six years.

Bill 22 proposes a restructuring of TheBus fares, increasing the price for adults and youths. Beginning July 1, 2009 a single fare for adults will be raised from \$2 to \$2.25, four-day passes will cost \$25 from \$20, monthly passes increase from \$40 to \$50 and annual passes will increase from \$440 to \$550. Starting July 1, 2010, the single fare, monthly and annual passes will increase again to \$2.50, \$60 and \$660, respectively. The \$5 one-day pass fare for adults will be discontinued.

Bill 23 will increase the fees at municipal golf courses, including Kahuku Golf Course. The fee for adults with a golf ID card and golf cart fees would be raised from \$16 to \$19 and \$9 to \$12 for youths starting July 1, 2009. For Kahuku, adults with a golf ID card will be charged \$13, up from \$10; youths will be charged \$8, up from \$5.

Bill 24 will increase the entrance fee at the Honolulu Zoo. With passage of the operating budget, children under the age of three, instead of five, will be free. Instead of starting from six years, children from four to 12 will be charged \$3 instead of \$1. It would cost Hawaii residents 13 years and older \$6 instead of \$4 and non-residents would be charged \$12 instead of \$8. The zoo would no longer sell annual family passes.

Continued on next page

DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ

CITY COUNCIL

Continued from Page 1

Original:

Passenger Category	Single Cash Fare	Four-Day Pass	Monthly Pass	Annual Pass
Adult	\$2 or 1 token	\$20	\$40	\$440
Youth	\$1.00	Not App.	\$20	\$220

July 1, 2009:

Passenger Category	Single Cash Fare	Four-Day Pass	Monthly Pass	Annual Pass
Adult	\$2.25 or 1 token	\$25	\$50	\$550
Youth	\$1.00	Not App.	\$25	\$275

July 1, 2010:

Passenger Category	Single Cash Fare	Four-Day Pass	Monthly Pass	Annual Pass
Adult	\$2.50 or 1 token	\$25	\$50	\$660
Youth	\$1.25	Not App.	\$30	\$330

Finally, Bill 25 is a proposal to increase the fee for attendant and custodial services, Honolulu Zoo parking meter rates and Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve admission fees. The fee for organizations using city facilities which require an attendant and custodial services would increase from \$10 to \$15. The non-resident entrance fee for Hanauma Bay would increase from \$5 to \$7.50. Parking fees at the Honolulu Zoo and on Kalakaua Ave would be raised to \$1.50 from \$.25 an hour.

Lester Chang, director of the Department of Parks and Recreation, testified that proposed fee would offset the increases in the operating costs associated with park attendant and custodial services and the Hanauma Bay Nature Preserve, along with bringing Zoo parking meter rates in alignment with other public parking rates.

If you have any questions relating to the proposed tax and fee increases please feel free to contact me at 768-5002 or dmdelacruz@honolulu.gov.

Doctor honored for volunteerism

Dr. John Magauran is the recipient of the 2009 Jefferson Award for Public Service and an honoree at May's City Council meeting. He is the director of the Anuenue Wellness Center where he helps care for the developmentally disabled and the elderly.

Before joining ORI, Dr. Magauran ran a 24-hour clinic in Waikiki. When he was approached to help with developmentally disabled clients in Wahiawa, Dr. Magauran agreed to visit them once a month. He is now there full time and practices medicine solely in Wahiawa.



COUNCIL DISTRICT II STAFF

Kimberly Ribellia, Senior Advisor
Reed Matsuura, Legislative Aide
Michael Sakata, Legislative Aide
L. Keanu Young, III, Legislative Aide
Dot Fujinaga, Secretary

T: 768-5036
T: 768-5038
T: 768-5037
T: 768-5039
T: 768-5002

e-mail: kribellia@honolulu.gov
e-mail: rmatsuura@honolulu.gov
e-mail: msakata@honolulu.gov
e-mail: lyoung@honolulu.gov
e-mail: dfujinaga@honolulu.gov

DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ

CITY COUNCIL

City opens new Sunset Beach center

After years of waiting and allocating millions of dollars, the Sunset Beach Recreation Center was finally opened to the public on May 31st.

I am pleased that the center has opened and know that it is a welcome addition to Sunset Beach. This recreation center is much more than a gathering place for the community. It is a place where memories will be made. It is a safe place for the children to play and adults to relax.

It has been my pleasure to help with bringing this center to fruition. My staff and I spent many hours every budget season hammering out proposals to ensure the center was built. We were able to secure funding for years to keep the project going through the delays and setbacks. This center is a testament to a community's fortitude and persistence to providing a better future for their keiki and their neighborhood. I would like to commend those residents who did not give up and made sure the city completed what they said they would.



The Consuelo Foundation

The Honolulu City Council honored The Consuelo Foundation for their 20 years of community service. The foundation works to enhance the quality of life for children, women and families in Hawaii and the Philippines.

In 1991, the Consuelo Foundation embarked on creating a self-help housing project in Wai`anae, offering 75 qualified, low-income families the opportunity to build and own their own home in a neighborhood that values community participation. Construction of *Ke Aka Ho 'ona* - the Spirit of Consuelo - was completed in 2001. Today this community remains free of violence and substance abuse, just as Consuelo wished. And the 75 families living there have never lost their strong sense of community.



Photo Courtesy of The Consuelo Foundation

Increased fuel tax proposed

The City administration has introduced tax increases in an attempt to balance the city's budget. Increases to motor vehicle weight tax, bus fares and golf course fees among others have been proposed and each legislation has its supporters and detractors. However, because of the current economic crisis Hawaii and the rest of the nation is in, it is not prudent for the city to look at other options besides taxing those who are already being hit by the recession. We cannot merely pass the buck on these issues. It is not the right time for tax increases.

My district encompasses a large portion of the island's rural district. Much of it is way out of the scope of the urban core, which equates to a longer commute to work for some of us. Councilmember Nestor Garcia proposed a resolution to increase the tax on fuel three cents, from biodiesel from 8.5 to 11.5 cents per gallon, and all other fuels from 16.5 to 19.5 cents per gallon. It is easy to see that District II would be hardest hit by this tax because we would be paying more tax because we have to use more gas.

At the May 27, full City Council meeting, I opposed this resolution. It is not prudent for a resolution to be passed that would unfairly tax one group of people more than another group simply because of their location. If a person has to pay more for gas because they have to fill up more often than those living near the urban core, they should not have to also pay more tax because of this. With the state in economic turmoil we need to be fiscally responsible not only for the government, but also for its people.

DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ

CITY COUNCIL

Full Council Action Items

The following actions were taken by the City Council on **May 27, 2009**:

Third Reading

- Bill 29 - Relating to civil fines for violations of the ethics laws. (Implementing Charter amendments, ratified in the 2008 general election, that authorize the City Ethics Commission to impose civil fines on certain City officers and employees who have significant discretionary or fiscal power, as determined by ordinance, for violations of the standards of conduct.)

First Reading

- Resolution 09-156 (Executive Matters and Legal Affairs) - Initiating amendments to the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu 1973, as amended, to increase the number of Council districts.
- Bill 40 (Budget) - Relating to the public spay and neuter fees for dogs and cats. (Increasing the fees charged for spay and neuter services to closer reflect the cost of providing the services.)
- Bill 41 (Transportation and Planning) - Relating to parking of mopeds. (Allowing parking of mopeds on certain bicycle racks.)
- Bill 42 (Executive Matters and Legal Affairs) - Relating to the neighborhood boards. (Defraying some of the cost of staffing neighborhood board meetings by authorizing the City to charge a fee for entities requesting multiple appearances on the same neighborhood board's agenda.)
- Bill 44 (Transportation and Planning) - Relating to public transit. (Allowing public use of designated public transit facilities.)
- Bill 45 (Appropriate Committee) - Relating to the naming of City parks, sites and facilities. (Amending the requirements for the naming of City parks, sites and facilities to authorize the naming of new or existing parks, site or facilities for certain individuals featured in the 50 voices of statehood project who are not deceased.)

Resolutions

- Resolution 09-47, CD1 - Requesting the City Clerk to explore implementing an online voting program for City elections.
- Resolution 09-69, CD1 - Establishing an advisory working group to educate, advise and assist the City and County of Honolulu in its efforts to increase the use of sustainable planning, design and construction practices.
- Resolution 09-167 - Approving amendments to the City and County of Honolulu's list of projects in the Fiscal Years 2008-2011 Transportation Improvement Program.

Second Reading/Public Hearing

- Resolution 09-93, CD1 - Amending the City and County of Honolulu fuel tax. (Setting the City and County of Honolulu fuel tax for biodiesel fuel and mixtures containing twenty percent or more of biodiesel with diesel or other fuels at eleven and one-fourth (11¼) cents per gallon and the rate for all other liquid fuels at nineteen and one-half (19½) cents per gallon.)

District 2 Neighborhood Board Meeting Schedule June 2009

Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board	KEY Project	6/10/09
Ko'olauloa Neighborhood Board	Hau'ula Civic Center	Recess
Mililani Mauka/Launani Valley	Mililani Mauka Elementary Cafeteria	6/16/09
Wahiawa Neighborhood Board	Wahiawa District Park	6/15/09
North Shore Neighborhood Board	John Kalili Surf Center	6/23/09